comparatively small groups—a couple of hundred here, a thousand there—were excited and aggressive. The supporters of the government occupied the sidewalks, the workers and soldiers kept to the middle of the streets. When hostile groups passed one another, they exchanged threats and jeers. Some people on both sides carried arms. When we were close to the corner of Nevsky and Sadovaya, our chauffeur remarked in a matter-of-fact way, "Now they will start shooting."

I took the front seat beside him for a better view of what was going on. Shooting began before he touched the accelerator. Both sides fired. A few persons were hurt. We stopped the car and rushed toward a group on the sidewalk. Both sides recognized the Soviet car and the shooting around us ceased, but shots rang out farther down the street. We were surrounded by anti-Soviet demonstrators—college students, high school boys and girls, intellectuals. They shouted accusations against the Soviet, then some of them recognized us and called our names loudly. The mood of the crowd changed—we had the reputation of moderates. Somebody complained bitterly, "You saw this yourselves. Unprovoked aggression!"

While Dan, a physician by profession, was administering first aid to the wounded, I spoke to the crowd. "It is not important which side fired first. Both sides carry arms, both have used them, and both are to blame. Didn't you realize that armed demonstrations at night are bound to lead to bloodshed?"

Some insisted they carried arms only in defense, others agreed with me. We drove back to the Naval School. Chkheidze interrupted the discussion to hear the report about shooting on Nevsky Prospect. Then a resolution forbidding any street demonstration in Petrograd for the next two days was passed unanimously.

On May 6 the streets of the capital were calm.

THE GOVERNMENT CRISIS

What was the political meaning of the riots? The Cadet newspapers accused German agents of having fomented the trouble, and the Soviet of having used armed force to exert pressure on the government. According to them, patriotic demonstrations on May 4 had overshadowed the demonstrations against Miliukov on the preceding day, and this was the main reason why the Soviet had forbidden all street demonstrations.[2]

[2] Miliukov remarks in his *History*: "The clash of May 3-4 ended with an indisputable victory of the Provisional Government." But he recognizes that during this clash the Petrograd garrison obeyed only the orders of the Soviet. He likewise